

And doe him right; that answering one foule wrong
Lives not to act another. Be satisfied;
Your Brother dies to morrow; be content.

Isab. So you must be y first that giues this sentence,
And hee, that suffers: Oh, it is excellent
To haue a Giants strength: but it is tyrannous
To vse it like a Giant.

Luc. That's well said;
Isab. Could great men thunder

As *Ioue* himselfe do's, *Ioue* would neuer be quiet,
For euer pelting petty Officer

Would vse his heauen for thunder;

Nothing but thunder: Mercifull heauen;

Thou rather with thy sharpe and sulphurous bolt

Splits the vn-wedgable and gnarled Oke,

Then the soft Mercill: But man, proud man,

Drest in a little briefe authoritie,

Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd,

(His glasse Essence) like an angry Ape,

Plaies such phantastique tricks before high heauen,

As makes the Angels weepe; who with our spleenes,

Would all themselves laugh mortall.

Luc. Oh, to him, to him wench: he will relent,
Hee's comming: I perceiue't.

Pro. Pray heauen she win him.

Isab. We cannot weigh our brother with our selfe,

Great men may iest with Saints: ris wit in them,

But in the lesse fowle prophanation.

Luc. Thou'rt i'th right (Gist) more o'that.

Isab. That in the Captaine's but a chollerick word,

Which in the Souldier is flat blasphemie.

Luc. Art auis'd o'that? more on't.

Ang. Why doe you put these sayings vpon me?

Isab. Because Authoritie, though it erre like others,

Hath yet a kinde of medicine in it selfe

That skins the vice o'th top; goe to your bosome,

Knock there, and aske your heart what it doth know

That's like my brothers fault: if it confesse

A naturall guiltinesse, such as is his,

Let it not found a thought vpon your tongue

Against my brothers life.

Ang. Shee speakes, and 'tis such fence

That my Sence breeds with it; fare you well.

Isab. Gentle my Lord, turne backe.

Ang. I will bethinke me: come againe to morrow.

Isa. Hark, how hee bribe you: good my Lord turn back.

Ang. How? bribe me?

Isa. I, with such gifts that heauen shall share with you.

Luc. You had mar'd all else.

Isab. Not with fond Sickles of the tested-gold,

Or Stones, whose rate are either rich, or poore

As fancie values them; but with true prayers,

That shall be vp at heauen, and enter there

Ere Sunne rise: prayers from preferred foules,

From fasting Maides, whose mindes are dedisate

To nothing temporall.

Ang. Well: come to me to morrow.

Luc. Goe to: 'tis well; away.

Isab. Heauen keepe your honour safe.

Ang. Amen.

For I am that way going to temptation,

Where prayers crosse.

Isab. At what hower to morrow,

Shall I attend your Lordship?

Ang. At any time 'fore-noone.

Isab. Saue your Honour.

Ang. From thee: euen from thy vertue.

What's this? what's this? is this her fault, or mine?

The Tempter, or the Tempted, who sins most? ha?

Not she: nor doth she tempt: but it is I,

That, lying by the Violet in the Sunne,

Doe as the Carrion do's, not as the flowre,

Corrupt with virtuous season: Can it be,

That Modesty may more betray our Sence

Then womans lightnesse? hauing waste ground enough,

Shall we desire to raze the Sanctuary

And pitch our euils there? oh fie, fie, fie:

What dost thou? or what art thou *Angelo*?

Dost thou desire her fowly, for those things

That make her good? oh, let her brother liue:

Theeues for their robbery haue authority,

When Iudges steale themselves: what, doe I loue her,

That I desire to heare her speake againe?

And feast vpon her eyes? what is't I dreame on?

Oh cunning enemy, that to catch a Saint,

With Saints dost bait thy hook: most dangerous

Is that temptation, that doth good vs on

To sinne, in louing vertue: neuer could the Strumpet

With all her double vigor, Art, and Nature

Once stir my temper: but this vertuous Maid

Subdues me quite: Euer till now

When men were fond, I smile, and wondred how. *Exit.*

Scena Tertia.

Enter Duke and Prouost.

Duke. Haile to you, *Prouost*, so I thinke you are.

Pro. I am the Prouost: what's your will, good Friar?

Duke. Bound by my charity, and my bleit order,

I come to visite the afflicted spirits

Here in the prison: doe me the common right

To let me see them: and to make me know

The nature of their crimes, that I may minister

To them accordingly.

Pro. I would do more then that, if more were needfull

Enter Isabella.

Looke here comes one: a Gentlewoman of mine,

Who falling in the flawes of her owne youth,

Hath blisterd her report: She is with childe,

And he that got it, sentenc'd: a yong man,

More fit to doe another such offence,

Then dye for this.

Duke. When must he dye?

Pro. As I do thinke to morrow.

I haue prouided for you, stay a while

And you shall be conducted.

Duke. Repent you (faire one) of the sin you carry?

Isa. I doe; and beare the shame most patiently.

Duke. Ile teach you how you shal araign your conscience

And try your penitence, if it be sound,

Or hollowly put on.

Isa. Ile gladly learne.

Duke. Loue you the man that wrong'd you?

Isa. Yes, as I loue the woman that wrong'd him.

Duke. So then it seemes your most offence full act

Was mutually committed.

Isa. Mutually.

Duke. Then was your sin of heauier kinde then his.

Isa. I doe confesse it, and repent it (Father.)

Duke. 'Tis

Duke. 'Tis meet so (daughter) but least you do repent

As that the sin hath brought you to this shame, vbi

Which sorrow is alwaies toward our selues, not heauen,

Showing we would not spare heauen, as we loue it,

But as we stand in feare, of it. mid as much as we can

Isa. I doe repent me, as it is an euill,

And take the shame with ioy. bloudy mow of t

Duke. There rest: *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Your partner (as I heare) must die to morrow, *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

And I am going with instruction to him: *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Grace goe with you, *Benedicite.* *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Isa. Must die to morrow? oh inuirtuous Loue

That respects me a life, whose very comfort is a wofull

Is still a dying horror. *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Pro. 'Tis pittie of him. *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Scena Quarta.

Enter Angelo.

An. When I would pray, & thinke, I thinke, and pray

To leuerall subiects; heauen hath my empty words,

Whilst my Inuention, hearing not my Tongue,

As if I did but onely chew his name,

And in my heart the strong and swelling euill

Of my conception: the state whereon I studied

Is like a good thing, being often read

Grown feard, and tedious: yea, my Grauitie

Wherein (let no man heare me) I take pride,

Could I, with boote, change for an idle plume

Which the ayre beats for vaine: oh place, oh forme,

How often dost thou with thy case, thy habit

Wrench awe from fooles, and tye the wiser foules

To thy false seeming? Blood, thou art blood,

Let's write good Angell on the Deuills home

'Tis not the Deuills Crest: how now? who's there?

Enter Seruant.

Ser. One *Isabella*, a Sister, desires access to you.

Ang. Teach her the way: oh, heauen

Why doe's my blood thus multer to my heart,

Making both it vnable for it selfe,

And dispossefing all my other parts

Of necessary finesse?

So play the foolish throngs with one that swounds,

Come all to help him, and so stop the ayre

By which hee should reuiue: and euen so

The generall subiect to a wel-wisht King

Quit their owne part, and in obsequious fondnesse

Crowd to his presence, where their va-taught loue

Must needs appear offence: how now faire Maid,

Enter Isabella.

Isa. I am come to know your pleasure.

An. That you might know it, wold much better please

Then to demand what 'tis: your Brother cannot liue.

Isa. Euen so: heauen keepe your Honor.

Ang. Yet may he liue a while: and it may be

As long as you, or I: yet he must die.

Isa. Vnder your Sentence?

Ang. Yea.

Isa. When, I beseech you: that in his Reprieue

(Longer, or shorter) he may be so fitted

That his soule sicken not. *Isa.* O I am distressed bloudy mow of t

Ang. Ha? fie, these filthy vices: It were as good

To pardon him, that hath from nature stolne

A man already made, as to remit

Their sawcie sweetnes, that do coyne heauens Image

In stamps that are forbid: 'tis all as easie,

Falsely to take away a life true made,

As to put mettle in restrained meanes

To make a false one.

Isa. 'Tis set downe so in heauen, but not in earth.

Ang. Say you so: then I shall poze you quickly.

Which had you rather, that the most iust Law

Now tooke your brothers life, and to redeeme him

Giue vp your body to such sweet vnclannesse

As she that he hath staid?

Isa. Sir, beleeeve this.

I had rather giue my body, then my foule.

Ang. I talke not of your foule: our compell'd sins

Stand more for number, then for accompt.

Isa. How say you?

Ang. Nay Ile not warrant that: for I can speake

Against the thing I say: Answer to this,

I (now the voyce of the recorded Law)

Pronounce a sentence on your Brothers life,

Might there not be a charitie in sinne,

To saue this Brothers life?

Isa. Please you to doe't,

Ile take it as a perill to my soule,

It is no sinne at all, but charitie.

Ang. Pleas'd you to doe't, at perill of your soule,

Were equall poize of sinne, and charitie.

Isa. That I do beg his life, if it be sinne

Heauen let me beare it: you granting of my suit,

If that be sin, Ile make it my Morne-prater,

To haue it added to the faults of mine,

And nothing of your answer.

Ang. Nay, but heare me,

Your sence pursues not mine: either you are ignorant,

Or seeme so crafty; and that's not good.

Isa. Let be ignorant, and in nothing good,

But graciously to know I am no better.

Ang. Thus wisdom wifhes to appeare most bright,

When it doth taxe it selfe: As these blacke Masques

Proclaime an en-shield beauty ten times louder

Then beauty could display: But marke me,

To be receiued plaine, Ile speake more grosse:

Your Brother is to dye.

Isa. So.

Ang. And his offence is so, as it appears,

Accountant to the Law, vpon that paine.

Isa. True.

Ang. Admit no other way to saue his life

(As I subscribe not that, nor any other,

But in the losse of question) that you, his Sister,

Finding your selfe desir'd of such a person,

Whose credit with the Iudge, or owne great place,

Could fetch your Brother from the Manacles

Of the all-building Law: and that there were

No earthly meane to saue him, but that either

You must lay downe the treasures of your body,

To this supposed, or else to let him suffer:

What would you doe?

Isa. As much for my poore Brother, as my selfe:

That is: were I vnder the tearmes of death,

Th'impression of keene whips, I'd weare as Rubies,

And strip my selfe to death, as to a bed,

That longing haue bin sicke for,